The Stars and Stripes are raised at the beginning of Masonic ceremonies in the Old San Diego plaza at which members of San Diego Lodge 35, F.&A.M., paid homage to the men who founded the first Masonic body in S[...]o [...] years ago.
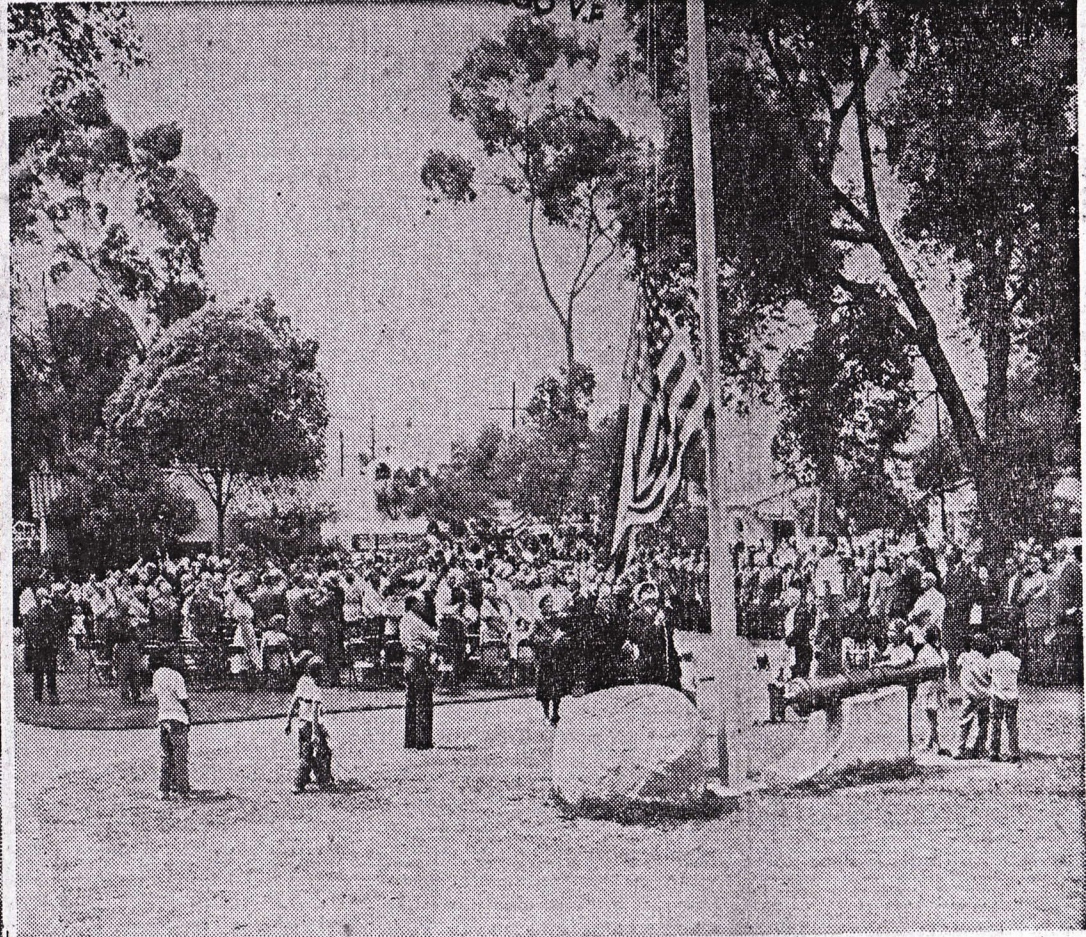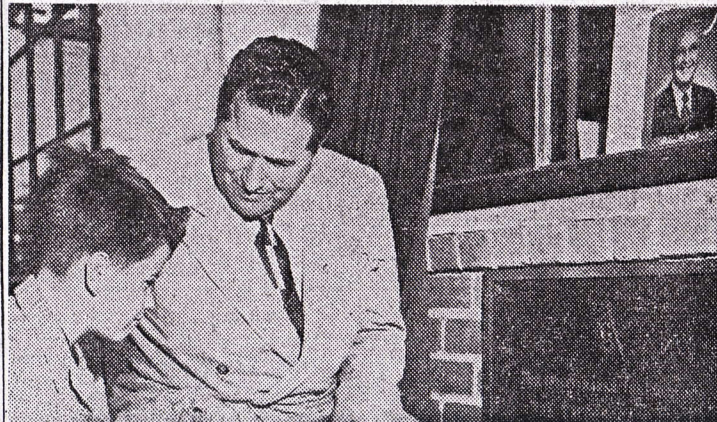
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June 17:51
Union

Masons Dedicate First Meeting Place

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Free Masons of San Diego, marking their 100th anniversary yesterday, were urged to become "pioneers of a second century of progress in social, economic and governmental areas" during dedicatory rites in the Old San Diego Plaza.

They heard Lloyd E. Wilson, past grand master and grand secretary of Free and Accepted Masons of California, caution Masonry to "make haste slowly" in its efforts to build sound and justified governmental processes.

"Here and now is the time to re-dedicate ourselves to strive for that type of government which is the servant and not the master of our people," Wilson declared.

PLAN PRESERVATION

"Though we may gain much inspiration in looking back," he said, "it is wise to look forward today and to plan for the preservation of that heritage given us by the first Masonic body here and pass it on to those who will follow us."

Several hundred Masons, their guests and civic officials crowded the plaza grounds to observe the celebration which included the unveiling, by members of San Diego Lodge 35, F.&A.M., of a plaque marking the first meeting place of Masonry in Southern California.

OPENS WITH CONCERT

The colorful observance began with a concert by the Al Bahr Temple Band which was followed by a parade of uniformed Masonic units composed of San Diego Commandery 25 and Harmony Commandery, and the Sciots Pyramid 32. Honored guests went to the plaza in a motorcade from the Masonic Temple, 350 Cedar St.

In his dedicatory address, Claude H. Morrison, past master, pleaded for "an integrity of purpose and accomplishment as the membership of San Diego Lodge 35 begins a new era of Free Masonry."
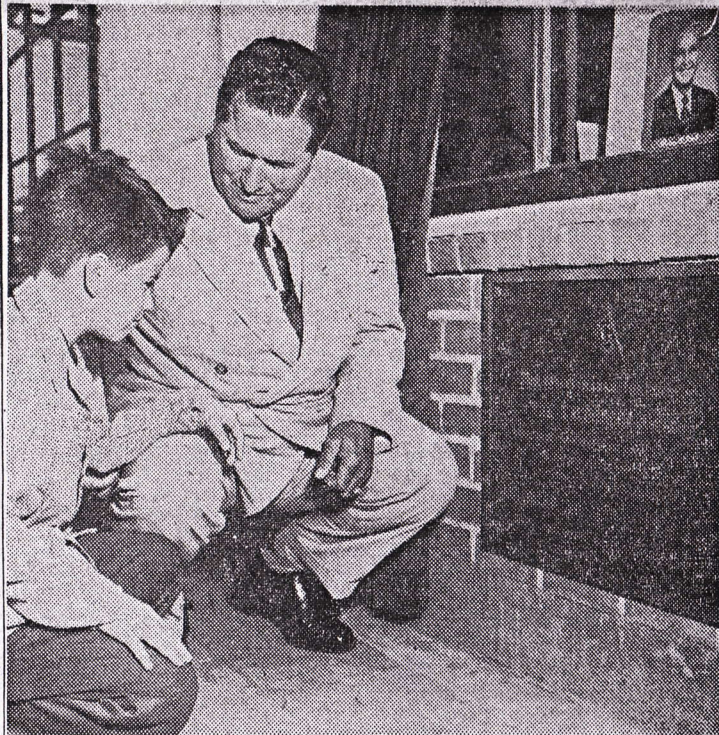
PLAQUE UNVEILED

The plaque, located on the site of the old Exchange Hotel, was unveiled by Albert Crosthwaite, grandson of Philip Crosthwaite, the first master of San Diego Lodge under its charter.

Included in the ceremonies were O. W. Campbell, city manager, Superior Judge L. N. Turrentine, Orion Zink, lodge historian, R. M. Culbertson, worshipful master, George W. Elder, chairman, and Nathan A. Tebbetts, whose father was a charter member of the lodge and owner of the Exchange Hotel.

Son of 1852 Mayor Tells of Old S.D.

Nathan A. Tebbetts, son of George Parrish Tebbetts, who was mayor of San Diego in 1852, yesterday added some colorful notes to the history of Pueblo San Diego as it existed in the decade between 1850 and 1860.

Tebbetts, a San Francisco advertising executive, was present for the 100th anniversary celebration of San Diego Lodge 35, F. & A.M.

"One of my father's favorite stories," he said, "was about the time they hanged three horse thieves here. The method was to tie a noose around a thief's neck, pass the rope over a branch and let everybody pull.

"Two investigators came here from Washington after the hanging," Tebbetts said, "to arrest everyone who participated in the act. My father told them every man, woman and child the community had hold of the rope.

"The government men checked the story—there were about 1500 citizens here then — and went back to Washington. That is the last that was ever heard about arresting anybody."

Tablet marking site of Masons' first meeting here is read by Philip Crosthwaite and his father, Albert Crosthwaite, great-grandson and grandson of first local grand master.